

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Withdrawn) A purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - b) a naturally-occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - c) a biologically-active fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - d) an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - b) a naturally-occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:1.

3. (Original) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 2.

4. (Original) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 3.

5. (Withdrawn) A transgenic organism comprising a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 3.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and
 - b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.
7. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.
8. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
 - b) a naturally-occurring polynucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2,
 - c) a polynucleotide sequence completely complementary to a),
 - d) a polynucleotide sequence completely complementary to b) and
 - e) a ribonucleotide equivalent of a)-d).
9. (Canceled)
10. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 8, the method comprising:
- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and
 - b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 10, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.
12. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 8, the method comprising:
- a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and
 - b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.
13. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising an effective amount of a polypeptide of claim 1 and an acceptable excipient.
14. (Withdrawn) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:
- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
 - b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.
15. (Withdrawn) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:
- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
 - b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.
16. (Withdrawn) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, the method comprising:
- a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, under conditions suitable for the expression of the target polynucleotide,
 - b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide, and

- c) comparing the expression of the target polynucleotide in the presence of varying amounts of the compound and in the absence of the compound.
17. (Withdrawn) A method for assessing toxicity of a test compound, said method comprising:
- a) treating a biological sample containing nucleic acids with the test compound;
 - b) hybridizing the nucleic acids of the treated biological sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 8 under conditions whereby a specific hybridization complex is formed between said probe and a target polynucleotide in the biological sample, said target polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 8 or fragment thereof;
 - c) quantifying the amount of hybridization complex; and
 - d) comparing the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample with the amount of hybridization complex in an untreated biological sample, wherein a difference in the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample is indicative of toxicity of the test compound.
18. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a disease or condition associated with decreased expression of functional HGST, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment the composition of claim 13.
19. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising an agonist compound identified by a method of claim 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
20. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a disease or condition associated with decreased expression of functional HGST, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a composition of claim 19.
- 21.-24. (Canceled)